An Analytical Study of Saint Bheema Bhoi's ' *Stuti Chintamani* '

A Research Proposal Topic to

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded.

(UGC recognized NAAC Re-accredited 'B++' grade state university)

For the research work leading to the award of the Degree Of

Doctor of Philosophy

In English

Under the Faculty of Humanities**.**

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Introduction -:

Bheema Bhoi lived in a period of Orissa's history which is marked by the rise of modern Oriya literature. He was a social reformer and mystic poet in the Renaissance period. He wielded his pen against the prevailing Social injustice, religious bigotry and cast discrimination. The goal of this mission is 'Jagate Uddhara'.

The Struggle of Bheema Bhoi as a lone Champion of human rights who had no connection with the western world of modern humanitarianism and reasoning. He was the man of the Soil and was devoid of basic facilities to grow as a normal human being. They knew the modern ideals of liberty, equality, justice and fraternity. It was the time when western education was easily accessible to oriyan people. They came across the sacrifices of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour etc. These two events created sensation throughout the world for its new modern spirit of nationalism. Oriya educated people were deeply influenced by these new elites who had a very limited sense of belongingness. They could not imagine that poor, illiterate and helpless masses, which had been oppressed by them for ages together, could be eligible to enjoy freedom and status equality with them. These selfish Urbanites never looked at the bottom. During this critical period time, when nobody made himself available to show the ray of hope, Bheema Bhoi appeared as a blessing to the countless blind folded and unfortunate common people. He was a Kandha of western Orissa.

Bheema Bhoi's literary works are a testament to his spiritual caliber,devotion and his never ending quest for the ultimate truth. His

Literary. cannon is vast including notable works like *Strutichintamani, Brahmaninpana, Geeta Bhajanmala, Adianta Geeta, Chautisa Madhuchakra, Astaka Bihari Geeta, Nirvedha Sadhana, Brahma alok geeta, Srutunishedha Geeta, Bangala Atha Bhajan* etc. Every word he wrote was infused with deep emotion and a sense of purpose. Overall his impact on the literary world is immeasurable.

2. **Objectives of Study -:**

1**.** To throw light on the life and literary works of saint Bheema Bhoi.
2. To analyze Saint Bheema Bhoi's poetry and its relevance to literature and social reform.
3. To evaluate his contributions to oriya literature and culture.
4. To examine the interrelations between literature, philosophy and social change.
5. To identify and analyze the literary devices used by Bheema Bhoi.
6. To investigate the representation of marginalized voices in Bheema Bhoi's poetry.

3. **Hypothesis -:**

1. Bheema Bhoi's poetry has a Significiant impact on Odia literature and culture.
2. Bheema Bhoi's poetry criticized the caste system and promotes social equality.
3. Bheema Bhoi's poetry reflects strong critiques of social inequality and oppression, including gender based oppression.
4. Bheema Bhoi's poetry challenges the patriarchal norms that restrict women's access to education and economic opportunities.

4. Scope and limitation -:

1. The Study will focus on the literary work of Saint Bheema Bhoi specially his 'Stutichintamani' and analyse his literary perception and social reform.
2. The study will examine the social reform agenda in Bheema Bhoi's poetry including his critiques of social inequality, caste oppression and gender – based oppression.
3. The study will primarily focus of Bheema Bhoi's 'Stutichintamani' in English, which may limit its accessibility to non- odia speaking audiences.
4 Only Bheema Bhoi's contribution will be studied.

5. Research Methodology.

1. The researcher will use analytical, descriptive and interpretative methods.

2. This study will employ a qualitative research design, combining with literary analysis.
3. Close reading and textual analysis of Bheema Bhoi's 'Stutichintamani'.
4. Historical and cultural contextualization.

6. Data Collection –:

The data required for the present research work will be collected from both primary and secondary sources.

1. Primary collection.

It includes all the original poetry collection of Bheema Bhoi**.**

2. Secondary Collection.

i) Articles published by different national and international authors and editors.

ii) Historical records and scholarly articles on Odisha's Social and cultural context in various texts.

iii) Interviews with Odia literature scholars and experts.

7. Review of literature -:

Bheema Bhoi is one of the most renowned literary and religious figures of Orissa. Though he was the last saint poet in the Nirguna tradition of Oriya literature, he is regarded as the greatest one among his contemporaries. He remained a revolutionary throughout his life. He created a tradition of revolt among the tribal's and lower caste people. His saint hood was not a bed of roses. He suffered with many hardships that made him immortal. The focus is given on Saint Bheema Bhoi's reformative work. He is considered as the pioneer of the 'Mahima Dharm.' Many researchers throw lights on Saint Bheema Bhoi contribution. It is noticed that no research work has been done in Maharashtra state.

Oriya and English Language books are available on Saint Bheema Bhoi. The book 'Bheema Bhoi verses from the void, mystic poet of an oriya saint' (2010) edited by Betting Baumer and Johannes Beltz is the first representative and comprehensives anthology on Bheema Bhoi. It contains translations of certain important work of Bhoi. It is the first ever critical edition on Bhoi, discussing his works in its social, religious and philosophical context.

8. Significance of research study -:

i) This research enriches the understanding of Bheema Bhoi's poetry and its literary and social relevance.
ii) It also addresses new literary and philosophical insights contributed by Bheema Bhoi's 'Stutichintamani.'
iii) By analyzing Bheema Bhoi's works the research highlights the richness of Oriya literature and its interrelations with Indian literary traditions.
iv) The research findings can available for policy development related to social reform, education and cultural heritage preservation.
v) Bheema Bhoi's poetry and its analysis can inspire creative works in the field of literature art and music.
vi) This research emphasizes on the themes of social justice, caste discrimination and human equality which are relevant of contemporary social challenges.

9. Tentative Chapter Scheme. -:

Chapter –I

Introduction -:

The first chapter will focus on introducing the historical and social background of Saint Bheema Bhoi. Bheema Bhoi is a 19^{th} century Odia poet and philosopher who is renowned for his profound and thought provoking works. His poetry infused with the spirit of Bhakti and social

reform. Bheema Bhoi's poetry remains understudied, particularly in the context of literary perception and social reform.

Chapter –II

Literary perception in Bheema Bhoi's *Stuti Chintamani*.

Bheema bhoi's poetry frequently employs nature imagery such as flowers, trees and rivers to convey spiritual and philosophical themes. Bheema Bhoi uses symbolic language to convey complex ideas and emotions such as the use of the Lotus Flower to represent spiritual growth. His poetry is deeply rooted in Bhakti tradition, emphasizing the importance of devotion and spiritual growth. He explores themes of love and relationships, emphasizing the importance of empathy and compassion.

Bheema Bhoi's poetry often employs traditional Odia poetic forms such as the 'Chautisha and Bhajan'. He also experiments with modern poetics styles such as free verse and stream of consciousness. His poetry can be seen as a response to values of odia culture. Its often portrays women as powerful and independent individuals challenging patriarchal norms.

Chapter –III

Philosophical and spiritual perspectives of Saint Bheema Bhoi *Stuti Chintamani*. Bheema Bhoi's poems give us abundant knowledge and a profound acquaintance with devotion. Bheema Bhoi witnessed the plight of the poor and lower castes right form his childhood.He used his writings to uplift the society to establish equality, fraternity and social injustice in the society. According to him education is the remedy to heal the wounds of society. He further stated the sole aim of education is to develop the *sadabuddhi janana* means true knowledge, which helps to create a society free from all voices and deformities. Bheema Bhoi's educational philosophy aims to empower individuals to take control of their own learning and development. His significant contributions to promoting equality have inspired the current educational systems goal to provide education for everyone with equal opportunities. Bheema Bhoi advocated for the holistic development of a child's moral, intellectual, social and spiritual being, which has become the modern educational goal. He fought for unity and fraternity among people from all castes and classes. In the contemporary setting modern education is following his footsteps to create a society that values the growth of every individual.

Chapter –IV

Social reform in Saint Bheema Bhoi's *Stuti Chintamani*.

Saint Bheema Bhoi revolted against all kind of social evils. He fought against the British and tried his best to reform Indian society. Bheema Bhoi opposed caste distinctions and accepted disciples from all communities' even untouchables. According to him there is only one caste that is humanity (*Manav jati*). He advocates for equality and fairness in all aspects of life. He emphasizes the need to empower marginalized communities including women dalits and tribals. He stresses the importance of education in bringing about social reform.

Chapter –V

Present relevance and impact of saint Bheema Bhoi's '*Stuti Chintamani'*.

Saint Bheema Bhoi's relevance and impact are still deeply felt today. His teachings emphasize the importance of spiritual growth, Self – realization and devotion to the divine. These principles continue to inspire and guide people from all walks of life.

Bheema Bhoi's poetry and philosophy also addresses pressing social issues, such as caste inequality, economic disparities and the struggle for women's rights. His message of equality, justice and compassion remains highly relevant in contemporary society. His emphasis on education and his critique of the existing education system continue to inspire educational reforms and initiative today.

Overall Saint Bheema Bhoi's teachings and legacy continue to have a profound impact on contemporary society, inspiring social reform, spiritual growth, education and cultural heritage.

Chapter –VI

Conclusion

The conclusion will be drawn based on the analysis and interpretation of the collected data. This analytical study of Saint Bheema Bhoi poetry has explored the literary and social reform aspects of his work. Through a close reading of his poems, this research has demonstrated how Bheema Bhoi's poetry reflects his philosophical and spirituals views as well as his commitment to social reform.

This study has contributed to a deeper understanding of Bheema Bhoi's poetry and its significance in the context of odia literature and culture. The research has also highlighted the relevance of Bheema Bhoi's poetry to contemporary social issues and its potential to inspire social reform and activism.

10. **References -:**

1. Primary Sourcess

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iii) Bheema Bhoi **'The *making of a modern Saint'*** Johannes Beltz**.**

Research Student. **Research Guide.**

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